



Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Newsletter

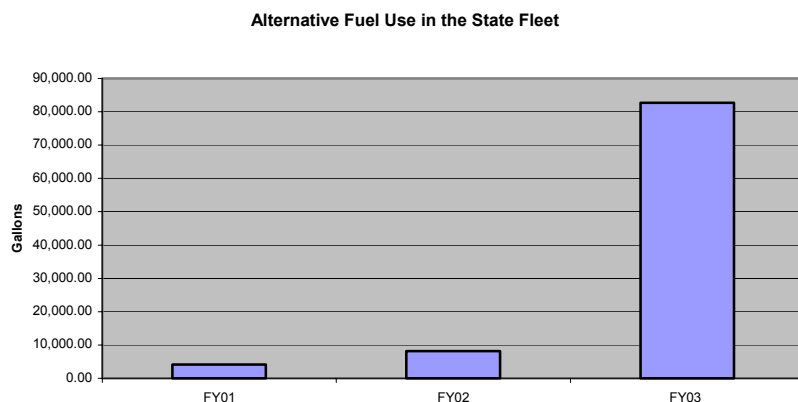
What's New and What's News in Clean Fuels? Volume 5 – Fall 2003

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PSCFC Achieves Designation:

On August 4th, the Palmetto State Clean Fuel Coalition was notified of its official designation as a Department of Energy Clean City. Shelley Launey, Director of the National Clean Cities Program, welcomed all of the stakeholders to the Program. An official designation ceremony is planned for January 28, 2004. The event will include presentations by DOE Headquarters to the stakeholders, potential recognition by the State Legislature and a press conference on the Statehouse grounds. A workgroup has been established to aid in the coordinating the designation event. Any stakeholders who would like to volunteer to serve on the committee are asked to contact Trisha Tangney of the State Energy Office at 803/737-8036 or Ptangney@gs.sc.gov

SC Increases Alt Fuel Usage:



South Carolina has had an excellent year in alternative fuels usage increasing from less than 10,000 gallon in FY02 to 82,660 gallon in FY03. B-20 totals 63,674 gallons and E-85 totals 18,811 gallons. The remainder is CNG. Congratulations Budget and Control Board for all the hard work in promoting alternative fuel use in South Carolina. Great work!

Savannah River Site Joins Coalition:

The Savannah River Site has joined the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition. SRS was the first federal government facility to use alternative fuels in South Carolina. Savannah River Site

has 565 E-85 flex fuel vehicles running on ethanol 100% of the time. SRS currently dispenses an average of 20,000 gallons of ethanol per month. Welcome SRS to the Coalition!

AFV Odyssey Day 2004:

On April 2, 2004, alternatives to powering cars and trucks with fuels besides gasoline and diesel will be explored at multiple locations nationwide during the second National Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Day Odyssey, coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium. The local event will be held at the Hood Center at York Technical College in Rock Hill, SC. The goal of this event is to build awareness and enthusiasm for AFV's as a viable option to meet the transportation needs of the consumer and the fleet operator. The inaugural event in 2002 reached more than 17,000 at 51 sites nationwide. The National spring 2004 event promises even to reach a larger number. The event will showcase the economic and environmental advantages offered by various clean, advanced-technology and alternative-fuel vehicles. Participants will discover the local AFV options available, local fuel sources, cost-saving facts, how these vehicles contribute to our national energy security and other benefits of owning and operating these smarter choices in transportation. To get involved or to offer suggestions, contact Bob Kosak at York Technical College, 803-325-2865.

USC Launches Alt Fuel Logo:



The University of South Carolina has introduced a new logo for their alternative fuels program. The logo will appear on all university alternative fuel vehicles next year. Jim Green of University Publications designed the logo. Keep an eye out for them and wave!

CCAC Weekly Air Update:

The Carolina Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) is a bi-state, 15 county regional initiative that currently includes Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties in South Carolina. The CCAC is an incorporated non-profit, dedicated to "restoring clean and safe air for a vibrant community". Individuals and groups throughout the region make up the membership. One function of the group is to hold regional air issue seminars. The most recent was held in September and included county board chairs, mayors, planning staff, the Chambers of Commerce, business and industry leaders, colleges and high schools and citizens groups. A special high school seminar was also held. The goals of the CCAC include supporting regional air quality efforts, promoting air quality legislation, ensuring the enforcement of air quality regulations and laws, promoting air quality awareness and education to citizens, business and political leaders, and stimulating broad-based community involvement in air quality issues. CCAC provides a weekly air issues update via e-mail that is available to members and non-members. Individuals and groups are encouraged to consider volunteering with CCAC to help clean the air. If you would like additional information about CCAC, visit the website at www.clean-air-coalition.org or contact Nancy C. Bryant at 704/375-7019 or Carolinas@clean-air-coalition.org.

SC Ranks 12th in Alt Fuel Fleets:

Automotive Fleet Magazine conducted a survey during 2003 to determine the ranking of the state fleets with regard to alternative fuel vehicles. This survey found that the South Carolina state fleet ranks 12th among the top 100 Alternative Fuel Fleets. South Carolina currently has approximately 1849 alternative fuel vehicles operating in its fleet. The State of South Carolina continues to maintain its compliance with the Energy Policy Act with regards to alternative fuel vehicle purchase mandates. Congratulations to Jeff McCormack and his staff at the State Budget and Control Board on all their hard work in promoting alternative fuel vehicles.

DOT Premiers Smart Ride:

Every morning, thousands of commuters flood the interstates heading into Columbia for work. However, during the month of October, a park and ride research project was kicked off by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority launched the SmartRide Research Project to determine if commuters are willing to park their cars and take an alternate mode of transportation to and from work.

The SmartRide Commuter Bus Research Project saw a positive response from commuters. Ridership numbers at project conclusion indicated that 2668 commuters participated during the 20-day research period. The assumption of SCDOT is that an average of 67 vehicles a day being parked at various park and ride locations outside of metro Columbia and commuters taking the bus to and from their worksites.

Passengers indicated early on that a commuter bus service has promise, and the idea of allowing someone else to do the driving in the morning helps them take on the day less stressed, and in a better frame of mind. Also, reducing traffic volumes could help clean up the air in Columbia, a big concern with new national air quality standards starting this spring. The South Carolina Department of Transportation is pleased with the response from the public during the project and it is our desire to see this type of project tested in other areas of the State.